

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

RI Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2013

Gregg J. Cassidy RI DEM, Planning & Development

Steve Church RIDOT

Coleen McGrath Friends of Ballard Park

Sue Barker RI Greenways Alliance

Harvey Buford Hopkinton Conservation Commission

Denise Poyer Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Bill McCormick RI Trials Club

Roy Najecki RI Land Trust Council

Robert Butler Northeast Association of 4 x 4 Clubs

Al Moder NE Mountain Bike Association

Lisa Primiano RI DEM, Planning & Development

Kevin Nelson RI Statewide Planning

Henry Cruciani Appalachian Mountain Club

Martha Cruciani Appalachian Mountain Club

Meeting called to order at 3:03 PM.

Harvey Buford and Coleen McGrath were introduced. They attended to answer questions regarding grant requests they submitted that are scheduled to be reviewed at this meeting.

Motion to accept meeting minutes of September 10, 2013 meeting as amended by Bob Butler, seconded by Al Moder. Approved.

1. Existing Grants

Gregg Cassidy reported to the Committee on recent extension requests:

- o Town of Charlestown, Mud Cove (6-90-05). This project is near completion but needs to be extended to insure the reimbursement is processed before the grant expires.**

- o West Bay Land Trust, erosion control (13-08-02) extension request to complete the project.**

- o Town of Burrillville, Pascoag Trail Head (7-90-12). Since the contract was signed waste issues were discovered on the site which will delay implementation, requiring an extension.**

2. Small Grant Requests

o Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust. \$3000.00. Equipment Storage. Denise Poyer explained the grant: the Land Trust currently stores their trail maintenance equipment at the DPW, which limits availability to volunteers (who typically need the equipment when DPW is closed). The storage shed would be on DPW property but offer better access. Three quotes for a 10'x 12' shed were provided. Roy Najecki made a motion to approve up to \$3000 for the purchase and installation of a storage shed, seconded by Bill McCormick. Approved.

o Friends of Ballard Park. \$5000.00 for a trail based education program. Coleen McGrath summarized the accomplishments from previous educational programs. The Lesson Plan is focused on a trail safety message (stay with group, don't leave the trail, look out for poison ivy etc.). The effectiveness of the Program is measured with a pre and post survey; 15% of the students can answer trail safety questions correctly before the Program , but 85% can after. Denise Poyer asked what the grant funds would be used for and Ms. McGrath clarified that it would include staff time, supplies, and transportation. Ms. Poyer stated that, based on her research, this type of trail education project is funded in other States. Roy Najecki made a motion to approve the grant request, seconded by Kevin Nelson. Approved.

o Hopkinton Conservation Commission. \$3000.00. Harvey Buford explained that the project is intended to map all public accessible

properties in the Town. Kevin Nelson stated that he recalls the Recreational Trails Grants cannot fund maps; mapping can only be part of a safety program. Kevin Nelson made a motion to give conditional approval pending approval by the Federal Highway Coordinator that it is a fundable activity Data from the Project should be shared with DEM. The motion was seconded by Sue Barker. Approved.

o Hopkinton Land Trust. \$3000.00 for trail signage. Lisa Primiano noticed that equipment in the grant request that wasn't related to this project. Although it may be fundable, it should be a separate request. Denise Poyer made a motion to approve the grant request for \$2200 (not related equipment excluded), seconded by Bob Butler. Approved.

o Neutaconkanut Conservancy. \$3000.00 for trail maintenance equipment. This grant request was tabled at the September 10th meeting pending clarification of the need from the applicant. The Applicants response was forwarded with the Meeting Agenda. Roy Najecki pointed out that the mowing attachment requested was for mowing lawns and the standard mower was appropriate for field work. Kevin Nelson made a motion to approve a grant of \$2800 to purchase a DR mower without lawn mower attachment or warranty, seconded by Denise Poyer. Approved.

3. Education Grant Guidelines. Denise Poyer summarized her research into trail based education grants in other States. She will

distribute her findings to the Education Subcommittee for input before presenting it before the full Trail Advisory Committee.

4. Other Business

Lisa Primiano called the Committees attention a letter from Sue Barker announcing that she was stepping down as editor of Trail Mix newsletter. The Committee thanked her for her ten years of dedicated service.

Motion to Adjourn made by Kevin Nelson, seconded by Al Moder. Approved. Adjourn at 4:45.

Next Meeting:

February 18, 2014, 2013 @ 3:00 PM

USDA, 60 Quaker Lane Warwick, RI 02886